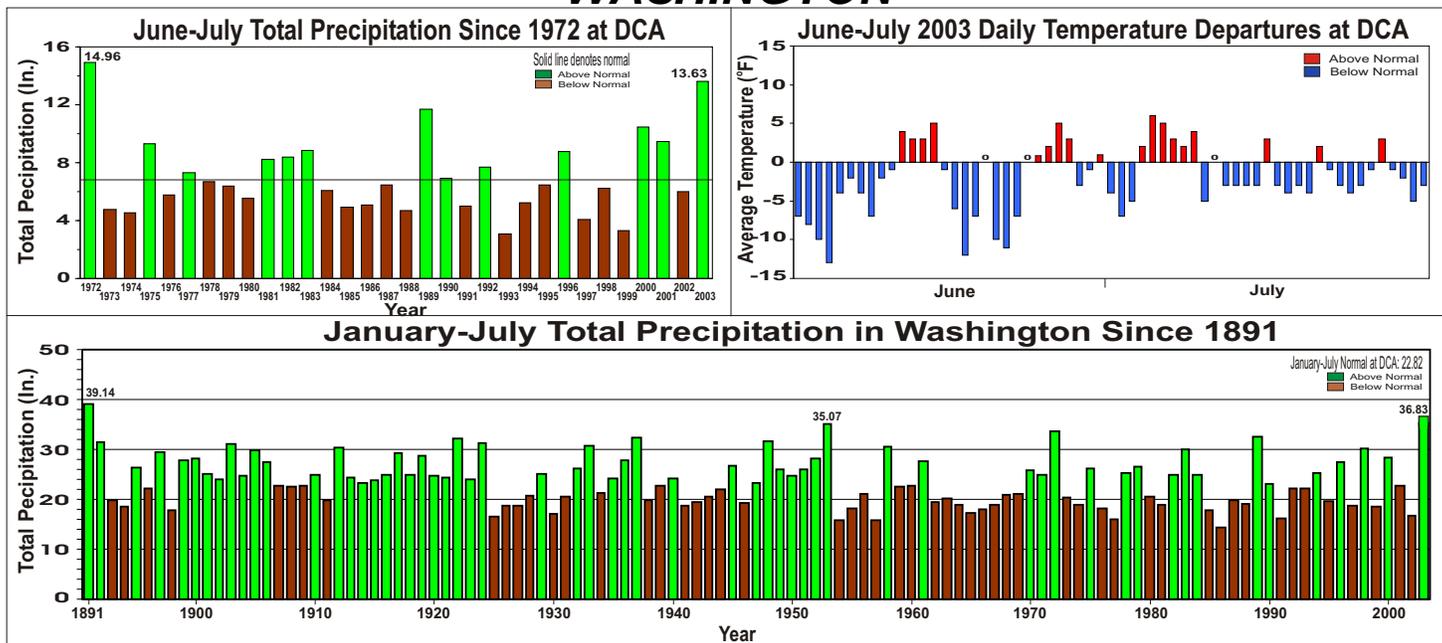




**PRECIPITATION SUMMARY AND TEMPERATURE OBSERVATIONS
FOR THE WASHINGTON, DC & BALTIMORE, MD AREA**

JULY 2003

**WETTEST & COOLEST START TO SUMMER SINCE 1972 IN
WASHINGTON**



HIGHLIGHTS

- Cool and wet across the Washington/Baltimore area;
- 22 days with at or below normal temperatures at DCA, including 19 of the last 22 days;
- Only 8 days with 90°F+ highs at DCA (5 at BWI & 7 at IAD) and no days with 95°F+ readings at the three major airports;
- Temperatures averaged slightly more than 1.5°F below normal during the climatologically hottest period of year (July 19-27) at DCA;
- Coolest June-July period since 1972 at DCA (43 days with at or below normal temperatures);
- Wettest July since 1975 at DCA (5.76") and 4th wettest on record at IAD (6.07");
- 12 days with measurable precipitation (≥0.01") at both DCA & IAD and 15 at BWI;
- Strong thunderstorms spawned an F0 tornado (winds of 40-72 mph) in Stafford County and an F1 tornado (winds of 73-112 mph) in King George County on the 10th, causing property damage, according to press reports;
- Wettest June-July period since 1972 at both DCA (13.63") and IAD (second overall; 14.41"), since 1989 at BWI (12.52");
- Eighth month out of last 10 with above-normal precipitation at the three major airports;
- Thunderstorms drenched most of the local area on the 22nd, dumping more than an inch of rain at both IAD and BWI and nearly three inches on parts of Montgomery County, MD;
- Wettest January-July period (5th overall) in Washington since 1891 (36.83"; 94% of normal annual total; see graphic above).

Andrew H. Horvitz, Office of Climate, Water & Weather Services/NWS, (301) 713-1792 (ext. 150)
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om>